United Nations A/73/625

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 December 2018

Original: English

Seventy-third session
Agenda item 136
Programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

First performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the first performance report of the Secretary-General on the programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/73/493). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 7 December 2018.

2. The report reflects adjustments required because of variations in the rates of inflation and currency exchange and in the standards assumed in the calculation of the initial appropriations. The report also takes into account the additional mandates that the General Assembly and the Security Council have approved since the appropriation of the programme budget; unforeseen and extraordinary items that could not be deferred to the second year of the biennium; and decisions of policymaking organs that are best dealt with in the context of the performance report (ibid., paras. 1–2). In line with the decision of the Assembly in its resolution 72/8 A, actual expenditure experience for 2018 has been factored into the adjustments to the parameters for currency, inflation and standard costs, including vacancy rates (ibid., para. 3). A summary of the revised estimates is provided in table 1 of the report, indicating an increase of $159.8 million (or 3.0 per cent) with respect to expenditure sections and an increase of $2.6 million (or 0.5 per cent) for income sections over the approved appropriation level and income estimates for the biennium 2018–2019 (see sects. II and III below for further details).

3. In addition, the report includes proposals to adjust the level of the Working Capital Fund and to replenish the Special Account, to adjust the recosting methodology for the International Trade Centre and to establish the level of the contingency fund for the 2020 budget period. The comments of the Advisory Committee on those three proposals are contained in sections IV–VI below.

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II. Expenditure sections

4. In table 1 of his report, the Secretary-General indicates that the revised requirements under the expenditure sections amount to $5,556.2 million, an increase of $159.8 million, or 3.0 per cent, over the appropriation level of $5,396.4 million approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 72/262 C, 72/263 A–C and 72/266 B. It is indicated in table 2 that the initial appropriation was reduced by $479,800, reflecting the Assembly's decisions on the Secretary-General's proposals regarding the implementation of a new management architecture for the United Nations Secretariat and on revised estimates related to peace and security reform (ibid., table 2, footnotes).

5. The Secretary-General also indicates that reports on revised estimates and statements of the programme budget implications of several draft resolutions under consideration by the Main Committees of the General Assembly at the time of the finalization of the first performance report indicated an amount of approximately $298.7 million. Those amounts are being handled outside of the context of the first performance report, the largest of which are: increases relating to the proposed revised estimates in respect of special political missions ($209 million); revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council ($29.1 million); revised estimates relating to the resident coordinator system under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination ($13.6 million); and a request for a subvention to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia ($9.7 million for 2019). Observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on those matters are contained in its respective reports on those subjects.[1] The Committee notes that the amount excludes various statements of programme budget implications that had not been finalized at the time of the issuance of the first performance report.

Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses

6. The Secretary-General provides details on unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2018–2019 totalling $13.1 million, incurred under the terms of General Assembly resolution 72/264. Table 3 includes a list of the commitments approved by the Advisory Committee ($7.75 million); certified by the Secretary-General relating to the maintenance of peace and security and for security measures, pursuant to the authority granted under paragraph 1 (a) and (c) of the resolution ($5.0 million); and approved by the President of the International Court of Justice ($410,000).

7. Concerning those commitments approved by the Advisory Committee, the Committee was provided, upon request, with a comparative breakdown of the amounts originally proposed by the Secretary-General, the commitment level authorized by the Committee and the amounts requested in the first performance report, which took into consideration actual expenditure experience. The details are set out in the following table:

[1] A/73/498, A/73/537, A/73/579 and A/73/448.

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Budget section	*Proposal of the Secretary-General*	*Authorized by the Advisory Committee*	*Requested in the first performance report*
Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council Affairs and conference management			
Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	–	457.5	–
Section 24, Human rights			
Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	3 387.6	3 931.1	2 879.7
Situation of human rights in South Sudan	2 513.2	2 138.0	1 971.8
Situation of human rights in Myanmar	262.8	235.0	230.2
Technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and accountability concerning the events in the Kasai regions	1 746.2	1 500.0	1 190.9
Violations of international law in the context of large-scale civilian protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	1 785.0	1 800.0	1 460.5
Section 29F, Administration, Geneva			
Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	24.8	–	–
Situation of human rights in South Sudan	24.8	20.8	20.8
Technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and accountability concerning the events in the Kasai regions	37.2	–	–
Violations of international law in the context of large-scale civilian protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem	43.4	–	–
Total	**9 825.0**	**10 082.4**	**7 753.9**

8. In table 3.A of the performance report, it is indicated that the appropriations requested in the case of human rights situations in the Syrian Arab Republic and South Sudan take into account respective fund balances of $0.96 million and $31,800. The Advisory Committee notes that those balances arose from amounts authorized for the sole purpose of implementing previous mandates of the Human Rights Council. The Chair of the Committee, in letters authorizing the Secretary-General to enter into commitments relating to subsequent mandates, has emphasized that the amounts of commitment authority requested should not continue to be calculated in this manner. The Committee considers, therefore, that the amounts reflected in the table in respect of the human rights situations in the Syrian Arab Republic and South Sudan are erroneous, leading to an understatement of the total amount proposed by the Secretary-General. **The Committee expects that any such instances will be correctly presented in future requests of the Secretary-General.**

9. Concerning the $5.0 million approved under the authority of the Secretary-General, set out in table 3.B of the report, the Advisory Committee recalls that, pursuant to paragraph 1 (a) and (c) of General Assembly resolution 72/264, the Secretary-General has the authority to enter into commitments not exceeding $8 million in any one year on matters he certifies as relating to the maintenance of peace and security and such commitments not exceeding a total of $1 million as required for security measures. Upon request, the Committee sought background information on the commitments approved under this authority, which is contained in the annex to the present report.

Decisions of policymaking organs

10. The report of the Secretary-General seeks appropriation for amounts totalling $10.3 million under section 8, Legal affairs, relating to subventions to the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia ($8.0 million) and the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone ($2.3 million) for the period from 1 January to 31 December 2018. The Advisory Committee notes that, in both cases, the Secretary-General requests appropriation of the full amount of the respective authorities previously approved by the General Assembly. In the case of the Extraordinary Chambers, in the context of its request for the subvention requested for 2019, the Committee notes that the combined level of voluntary contributions received as at 30 September 2018 ($9.4 million) and the commitment authority to cover the international component in 2018 ($8 million) was very close to the level of the approved budget ($17.7 million) (A/73/448, annex, table 2). The Committee recalls the requirement for regular budget funds to be refunded when voluntary contributions actually received exceed the remaining requirements for a given period.[2] **The Committee trusts therefore that the Secretary-General will provide updated information to the General Assembly concerning the level of voluntary contributions received for the activities of the Extraordinary Chambers in 2018. Should the total funding provided for 2018 exceed the budgetary requirements for that period, the amount of the excess should be refunded to Member States.**

Variations in budgetary assumptions for the biennium 2018–2019

11. The variations in the budgetary assumptions for the 2018–2019 biennium contained in the report of the Secretary-General include: (a) net increases as a result of exchange rate fluctuations ($10.3 million); (b) increases due to adjustments in inflation rates ($12.6 million); (c) increases in standard staff costs ($30.5 million); and (d) increases due to the differences between actual and budgeted vacancy rates ($83.0 million) (A/73/493, paras. 16–48).

12. Concerning the changes in foreign currency rates, the Secretary-General indicates that the $10.3 million net increase relates mainly to the use of a lower rate for the Swiss franc for 2019 compared with the rate applied in the initial appropriation (ibid., para. 18). The fluctuations of several currencies are depicted in figures I–VI and described in paragraphs 19–27 of the report.

13. The most recent details on the experience of forward purchasing, first authorized by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/246, are set out in paragraphs 28–32 of the report. The Advisory Committee notes that the purpose of forward purchasing is to increase budgetary certainty irrespective of currency fluctuations. It is indicated that under the forward purchasing contract for 2018, the United Nations purchased SwF 325 million and €48 million at a predefined rate of exchange, which, with the strengthening of the United States dollar against those currencies, has resulted in a loss between contracted forward rates and the United Nations operational rates of exchange that would have been used in the absence of the forward contract. For 2019, the United Nations entered into a forward contract in October 2018 to purchase SwF 397.8 million and €59.0 million at predefined rates.

14. Details on the $12.6 million net increase attributable to inflation rates are provided in paragraphs 33–39 and schedules 1, 2 and 4 of the first performance report. Revised inflation rates are based on: actual and projected post adjustment multipliers promulgated by the International Civil Service Commission for staff in the Professional and higher categories; actual versus budgeted cost-of-living adjustments

[2] See A/72/7/Add.7, para. 36 (b), which was endorsed by the General Assembly in section IX of its resolution 72/262.

based on the prevailing market conditions for staff in the General Service and related categories; and the latest available information on consumer price indices, including for non-post objects of expenditure.

15. As indicated in paragraphs 40–46 of the Secretary-General's report, adjustments to standard costs reflecting the net effect of changes in standard salary costs, common staff costs and staff assessment rates amount to a net increase of $30.5 million. This includes revisions to standard salary costs for 2018, which are based on the actual average payroll experience at each duty station. The net increase reflects an increase of $65.9 million under common staff costs and $2.0 million under staff assessment, offset by a reduction of $37.4 million under net base salary costs. Those changes relate mainly to the implementation of the unified salary scale in January 2017, the transfer of dependency allowances from net base salary to common staff costs, increased requirements under pensionable remuneration for staff in the Professional category and the education grant (ibid., paras. 42–44).

16. With regard to the increases attributable to vacancy rates, the report provides details on the differences between the budgeted rates approved by the General Assembly and the actual rates realized in 2018 (ibid., paras. 47–48). In its resolution 72/261, the Assembly decided that vacancy rates of 11.5 per cent for the Professional category and 8.7 per cent for the General Service category for continuing posts and a vacancy rate of 50.0 per cent for new posts for both categories should be used as the basis for calculating the budget for the biennium 2018–2019. The Secretary-General indicates that the average realized vacancy rates were 8.6 per cent for Professional posts and 6.6 per cent for General Service posts for the period from January to September 2018. Concerning field security staff funded under the jointly financed budget for the Department of Safety and Security, the differences between the budgeted and realized vacancy rates would result in a decrease of $4.6 million in costs, of which the United Nations share of the decrease would amount to $1.0 million. Overall, the application of the realized vacancy rates to the full biennium 2018–2019 would result in a net increase in staff-related costs of $83.0 million.

17. In response to a query concerning the financial implications of the implementation of flexible workplace strategies during the biennium 2018–2019, the Advisory Committee was informed that the costs of the project in 2018–2019 amounted to $25.4 million, of which $18.8 million was being funded from savings due to reduced costs for the rental of office space and the balance of $6.6 million was included in the request for appropriation by the General Assembly (see also A/73/370, para. 44).[3] **The Committee trusts that rental cost savings arising from the implementation of flexible workplace strategies will be clearly reflected in future performance reports and budget proposals of the Secretary-General.**

III. Income sections

18. The revised estimates relating to the income sections amount to $554.9 million, representing a net increase of $2.6 million, or 0.5 per cent, over the initial estimate for the biennium 2018–2019. This comprises: (a) an increase of $15.5 million under income section 1, Income from staff assessment; (b) a decrease of $5.5 million under income section 2, General income, reflecting largely the decrease in miscellaneous

[3] The report also indicates that rental savings will start to exceed project costs in 2020. After the completion of the project, the annual reduction in rental costs is estimated at $16.3 million (A/73/370, paras. 48–49).

income and income from the rental of premises; and (c) a decrease of $7.5 million under income section 3, Services to the public (A/73/493, paras. 50–54 and table 4).

19. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the decrease in income from the rental of premises was attributable mainly to a lower rental rate at the United Nations Office at Nairobi and the relocation to Mogadishu of several Somalia-related entities that had previously occupied space at the Office. The decrease in the rental rate reflects the outcome of a recent study to determine the prevailing commercial office rental rate and the increase in the supply of commercial buildings in the local market.

20. Regarding the decrease in income arising from services to the public (income section 3), it is indicated in the report that this is attributable primarily to lower-than-anticipated revenues from: (a) the sale of philatelic items at both Headquarters and Vienna; (b) the sale of publications; and (c) guided tour bookings at Headquarters (ibid., para. 52). The Advisory Committee recalls its observation, in the context of its report on the first performance report for the biennium 2016–2017, that income estimates in connection with income section 3 had required downward revision over the prior four bienniums (A/71/680, para. 24). In its review of the first performance report for the biennium 2018–2019, the Committee again sought explanations for the repeated downward revision of those income estimates but was not provided with any detail not already included in the performance reports of the Secretary-General for the respective periods. **The Committee reiterates its previous observation that a review of the potential of the United Nations Postal Administration to generate revenue may be useful (ibid., para. 23) and considers that such a review could be broadened to include the sale of publications and the income potential of the guided tour operation at Headquarters.**

21. The action to be taken by the General Assembly on the revised appropriation and revised estimates for income for the biennium 2018–2019 is set out in paragraph 76 (a) of the report of the Secretary-General. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Assembly approve the revised estimates contained in the report of the Secretary-General, taking into account its comments and recommendations above, as well as such adjustments as may be necessary as a result of the Assembly's consideration of matters now before it, including the consolidated statement of revised estimates and programme budget implications.**

IV. Working Capital Fund and Special Account

22. In his first performance report on the budget for the biennium 2018–2019, the Secretary-General resubmits an earlier proposal, put forth in the context of his reform proposals (A/72/492/Add.1, para. 73 (h)), that the Working Capital Fund be increased to $350 million from its existing level of $150 million. It is indicated that the increase is necessary to mitigate the risk of the Organization being constrained in programme delivery owing to an inability to meet its financial obligations (A/73/493, para. 65).

23. In addition, to further address liquidity problems with respect to the regular budget, the Secretary-General requests authorization to start replenishing the Special Account with a portion of the amounts previously transferred from it to cover expenses of the General Fund. The report indicates that the Special Account was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 2053 A (XX) so that voluntary contributions might be paid and used for the purpose of addressing financial difficulties encountered by the Organization (ibid., para. 63). The Secretary-General specifically requests the Assembly to authorize the transfer of $28.6 million, representing the unencumbered balance in the regular budget for the biennium

2016–2017, to the Special Account to supplement its current level of $203.0 million (ibid., para. 66).

24. The Secretary-General indicates that the year 2018 has presented the most challenging experience in terms of cash deficits for the regular budget, noting that the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account have not been enough to finance the regular budget expenses for the whole of October (ibid., para. 64). Information on the evolution of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account is provided in table 7 of the report. Based on the approved budget for 2018–2019, the Working Capital Fund level of $150 million would cover approximately 2.9 weeks of regular budget expenditure, and the Special Account ($203 million) would cover an additional 3.9 weeks.

25. Historical information on approved budgets since the biennium 1990–1991 is presented in table 5 of the report. Upon request, the Advisory Committee was provided with actual biennial expenditure information, which is reflected in the following table:

		Adjustments[a]			
Biennium	*Initial appropriation*	*First year*	*Second year*	*Final appropriation*[a]	*Expenditure*[a]
1990–1991	1 974.6	159.5	33.9	2 168.0	–
1992–1993	2 402.6	65.5	(56.7)	2 411.4	2 375.1
1994–1995	2 580.2	28.1	24.1	2 632.4	2 632.0
1996–1997	2 608.3	(5.0)	(61.2)	2 542.1	2 528.8
1998–1999	2 532.3	(5.6)	(38.4)	2 488.3	2 487.8
2000–2001	2 535.7	(2.6)	28.1	2 561.2	2 560.9
2002–2003	2 625.2	265.6	76.9	2 967.7	2 964.6
2004–2005	3 160.9	447.3	47.6	3 655.8	3 612.2
2006–2007	3 798.9	375.0	19.9	4 193.8	4 146.3
2008–2009	4 171.4	693.7	(65.2)	4 799.9	4 749.4
2010–2011	5 156.0	211.2	49.2	5 416.4	5 414.2
2012–2013	5 152.3	243.3	169.5	5 565.1	5 524.8
2014–2015	5 530.3	123.5	154.8	5 808.6	5 688.5
2016–2017	5 401.8	212.3	68.7	5 682.8	5 654.2
2018–2019	5 396.9	–	–	–	–

[a] Figures for the biennium 2018–2019 have yet to be determined.

26. The Advisory Committee was informed that the regular budget cash position as at 31 October 2018 had been negative $488 million. Both the Working Capital Fund ($150 million) and the Special Account ($203 million) had been exhausted since 4 September and borrowing totalling $135 million from the balances associated with closed peacekeeping missions had been issued to cover expenses by the end of October. Following the receipt of $200.6 million in contributions on 2 November, the temporary loan from the closed peacekeeping accounts was repaid and $59.0 million was used to reimburse the Special Account.

27. Regarding the temporary borrowing from the accounts of closed peacekeeping missions for non-peacekeeping purposes, the Advisory Committee was provided with information, upon request, about two prior instances (in 2005 and 2016) when this practice was deemed necessary (A/60/437, para. 8, and A/71/440/Add.1, para. 10). The Committee notes that the cross-borrowing in 2016 for non-peacekeeping

purposes was not reflected in the relevant annual report of the Secretary-General on the financial position of closed peacekeeping missions (A/72/649). The Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that those borrowings were never for a period of more than a month.

28. The Advisory Committee recalls that one year ago, in considering the previous proposal of the Secretary-General to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund, it concluded that the existing mechanisms for managing cash flow and liquidity within the United Nations did not merit change and recommended against the proposal (A/72/7/Add.24, para. 70). The General Assembly endorsed this recommendation in paragraph 16 of its resolution 72/266 A.

29. From its most recent analysis of the evolution of the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account with reference to the changing level of the budget, the Advisory Committee notes a small improvement since the 2016–2017 biennium in terms of the length of coverage that the existing fund balances would provide to regular budget activities. In the case of the Working Capital Fund, the balance in 2018–2019 covered 2.9 weeks of activities for the biennium, compared with 2.8 weeks in 2016–2017. The Special Account level in 2018–2019 would provide 3.9 weeks of budget coverage, compared with 3.7 weeks in 2016–2017. Together, the Working Capital Fund and the Special Account in 2018–2019 would provide 6.8 weeks of coverage, representing an increase of 0.4 weeks compared with 2016–2017 (A/73/493, table 7). The Committee also notes that the Secretary-General has needed to resort to temporary borrowing from closed peacekeeping mission accounts on only three occasions (in 2005, 2016 and 2018).

30. **While recognizing that the liquidity situation of the Organization needs to be closely monitored, the Advisory Committee considers that the report of the Secretary-General does not sufficiently demonstrate a pattern of sustained liquidity challenges faced by the Organization.**

31. **The Advisory Committee recommends against the proposals to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund and to approve the transfer of the unencumbered balances from the regular budget for the biennium 2016–2017 to the Special Account (ibid., para. 76 (b) and (c)). The Committee also trusts that the Secretary-General, as chief administrative officer of the Organization, will continue his efforts to encourage Member States to pay their assessed contributions to the Organization in full, on time and without conditions.**

32. On the related issue of budgetary management, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the Secretary-General had introduced various measures in 2018 to temporarily defer expenditures as a result of growing cash deficits. **The Committee trusts that the details on the application of these measures to individual budget sections will be provided to the General Assembly at the time of its consideration of the report of the Secretary-General.**

V. International Trade Centre

33. The Secretary-General proposes a revised recosting process for the International Trade Centre (ITC) (ibid., paras. 68–72), citing the Centre's unique budgetary structure, by which its regular budget is calculated in Swiss francs and financed in equal parts by the United Nations and the World Trade Organization. The proposed revision of the recosting process for the ITC budget (sect. 13), set out in table 8 of the report, indicates that the recosting exercise prior to final budget approval would include only the exchange rate variations, and the inflation parameters would be excluded. It is indicated that the final resource requirements set out in the

performance report would be presented in conformity with all other budget sections. The Secretary-General indicates that the proposed arrangement would result in a stable ITC budget in Swiss francs during the budget period, while the United States dollar amount in the United Nations programme budget would vary in accordance with exchange rate movements. **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of the revised recosting processes for the International Trade Centre set out in paragraph 71 and table 8 of the report of the Secretary-General.**

VI. Contingency fund

34. In his report entitled "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process" (A/72/492/Add.1), the Secretary-General considered that the proposed introduction of an annual budget cycle would eliminate the need for a separate report on the budget outline. Given that the Organization's contingency fund had traditionally been established as a percentage of the programme budget outline level approved by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General proposed the submission of an indication of the size of the contingency fund as a percentage of the overall level of resources of the proposed annual budget. Furthermore, for the 2020 budget period, the Secretary-General recommended, as a one-time measure, that the contingency fund be proposed and approved in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 2018–2019 and expressed as a percentage of half of the approved budget for 2018–2019 (or the equivalent of a one-year period). Other provisions governing the use of the contingency fund contained in Assembly resolutions 41/213 and 42/211 would remain unchanged. The Advisory Committee recalls that it supported the proposed elimination of the budget outline and the above-mentioned proposals with respect to the contingency fund (A/72/7/Add.24, para. 50). In its resolution 72/266 A, the Assembly approved the Secretary-General's proposal in that regard.

35. In his report, the Secretary-General recommends that the level of the contingency fund be maintained at 0.75 per cent of half of the amount of the revised appropriation for the biennium 2018–2019 (A/73/493, para. 76 (e)). **The Advisory Committee recommends approval of this proposal.**

Annex

Background information on commitments approved under the terms of paragraph 1 (a) and (c) of General Assembly resolution 72/264

Follow-on mechanism for the Democratic Republic of the Congo: $1.2 million

1. The amount of $1,232,300 would cover requirements to support the follow-on mechanism on the critical security incident resulting in the deaths of two members of the Group of Experts in Kananga, Democratic Republic of the Congo, from 1 January to 31 December 2018. The resources provided for 1 D-2 position, 1 Field Service position and associated non-post resources, including consultants, travel of staff and general operating expenses.

Border controversy between Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela: $0.1 million

2. The amount of $136,500 would cover requirements to support the efforts of the Secretary-General with respect to the border controversy between Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from 1 January to 2 April 2018. The resources provided for 1 Under-Secretary-General position, 1 P-3 position and associated non-post resources, including travel of staff, contractual services and general operating expenses.

Special Envoy on the funding of the African Union Mission in Somalia: $0.1 million

3. The amount of $75,700 would cover requirements to support the efforts of the Secretary-General on the financing of the African Union Mission in Somalia, from 24 January to 30 April 2018. The resources provided for 1 Under-Secretary-General position and associated non-post resources, notably, travel of staff.

Investigative team to support domestic efforts to hold Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh) accountable for their crimes in Iraq: $1.3 million

4. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 2379 (2017), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to establish an investigative team to support the domestic efforts in Iraq to hold Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da'esh) accountable by collecting, preserving and storing evidence in Iraq of acts that may amount to war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide committed by ISIL (Da'esh) in Iraq. In a letter of 13 February, the Security Council approved the terms of reference of the investigative team. The amount of $1,303,600 would cover the activities of the team from 1 March to 31 December 2018.

5. The resources provided for 14 positions (1 Assistant Secretary-General, 1 D-1, 7 P-4, 3 P-3 and 2 Field Service) and associated non-post resources, including travel of staff and consultants.

Security Council mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar: $0.3 million

6. The amount of $340,300 would cover requirements for the Security Council mission to Bangladesh and Myanmar from 26 April to 2 May 2018. The resources provided mainly for travel costs.

Support for talks between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: $0.1 million

7. The amount of $97,300 would cover requirements for the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy to facilitate and mediate talks between representatives of the Governments of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia aimed at a negotiated solution to the "name issue". The resources provided for two temporary positions (1 P-3 and 1 General Service), as well as associated non-post resources, including travel of staff, general operating expenses and contractual services. The Personal Envoy is on a $1-a-year contract.

Surge capacity in support of the electoral process in Iraq: $0.1 million

8. In June 2018, the Prime Minister of Iraq requested the support of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq in conducting a recount of its election ballots. The amount of $101,100 would cover temporary surge capacity to assist the Iraqi national authorities in a nationwide manual recount of ballots for one month, from about 23 June to 31 July 2018. The resources provided for travel, including daily subsistence allowance and danger pay, of 12 United Nations staff members with electoral expertise.

Creation of temporary electoral positions in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia for 2018: $0.3 million

9. The amount of $300,000 would provide for the strengthening of the electoral support capacity of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia to assist the Federal Government of Somalia in its preparations to hold elections in 2020 in line with the Mission's expanded electoral mandate, set out in Security Council resolution 2408 (2018).

10. The resources provided for the phased deployment of 17 posts (1 P-4, 5 P-3, 5 United Nations Volunteer and 6 National Professional Officer), for the period from 1 October to 31 December.

Resumption of United Nations Truce Supervision Organization observation operations in the Syrian Arab Republic: $1.4 million

11. The amount of $1,380,000 would cover activities related to the resumption by the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization of observation operations in the Syrian Arab Republic following recent security improvements in the Golan. The resources provided for construction works and improvements to damaged premises, the purchase of armoured vehicles, information and communications technology equipment and observation equipment and mission subsistence allowance for the military observers for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2018.